

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. An apparatus comprising:
2 a conversion mechanism configured to
3 process network device status data that conforms to a first format and is received by
4 the apparatus, and
5 generate, based upon the status data, report data that conforms to a plurality of
6 formats supported by a plurality of recipient devices.
- 1 2. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein the network device status data is received
2 by the apparatus directly from a plurality of multi-function peripherals that each
3 perform one or more of printing, copying, faxing and scanning.
- 1 3. The apparatus recited in Claim 2, wherein the network device status data specifies one
2 or more of consumable levels, a meter reading or need for a service call.
- 1 4. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein the network device status data is received
2 by the apparatus from a status data server that collects network device status data
3 from a plurality of network devices.

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1 5. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein the network device status data received by
2 the apparatus is encrypted and the apparatus is configured to decrypt the network
3 device status data.

1 6. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein the conversion mechanism is configured to
2 generate the report data in either XML or CSV format.

1 7. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein the network device status data is XML data
2 that conforms to a first XML schema and the report data is XML data that conforms
3 to a second XML schema.

1 8. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein the apparatus is configured to
2 generate both first report data conforms to a first data format supported by a first
3 recipient device from the plurality of recipient devices and second report data
4 conforms to a second data format supported by a second recipient device from the
5 plurality of recipient devices, and
6 provide the first report data to the first recipient device and the second report data to
7 the second recipient device.

1 9. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein the apparatus is configured to provide the
2 report data to the plurality of recipient devices using one or more Internet protocols
3 including SMTP, HTTP, HTTPS and FTP.

1 10. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein the apparatus is configured to provide the
2 report data to the plurality of recipient devices based upon a schedule.

1 11. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein the apparatus is configured to provide the
2 report data at a first time to a first recipient device from the plurality of recipient
3 devices and to provide the report data at a second time to a second recipient device
4 from the plurality of recipient devices, wherein the first and second times are
5 different.

1 12. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein the apparatus is configured to provide the
2 report data to the plurality of recipient devices, wherein the report data provided to
3 each of the plurality of recipient devices contains identification data that uniquely
4 identifies the recipient device.

1 13. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein the apparatus is configured to provide a
2 notification if a receipt confirmation indicating receipt of the report data is not
3 received from a particular recipient device from the plurality of recipient devices.

1 14. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, further comprising a storage device for storing the
2 recipient device status data.